

Caribou County Sun

- Dec 5, 1991

Farm Service.  
trons are encouraged to  
interest at the polls on  
rom 12 to 8 p.m. in the  
lementary office.

## Citizens Committee Gives Slag Update

Since the hotly debated EPA meetings in Soda Springs last fall and the followup hearings conducted by Sen. Symms, not much has been heard about slag.

Will streets and home foundations containing slag have to be removed? Will the slag bearing areas be retested by EPA? Will Soda Springs be classified as a high cancer risk area? It is probably time for an update on these issues.

At the beginning of 1991 Monsanto provided a "no strings attached" grant of \$25,000 to the City of Soda Springs to organize and fund a Citizens Advisory Board to study the issue.

The money is being used to fund travel for board members to attend scheduled EPA hearings and to bring experts on the subjects to inform members and community leaders of the potential health risks, if any. With the members attending the EPA hearings, it lets the EPA know of the local concern in the slag matter.

Those presently serving on the board are Stanley Dorius, chairman, Lynn Harris, secretary, and committee members Gail George, Dell Maughan, Gwen Budge, McGee Harris, Isabell Zundel, Candace Young, Don Harding, Peggy Rosdahl, Gary Greer, Ralph Reeves, Milt Blatter, and Cecil Alldaffer.

The Science Advisory Board (SAB) and one of its subcommittees, the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC), are organizations composed of non-EPA scientists who are to evaluate EPA proposals to see if they are scientifically sound. The EPA is expected to heed their advice, but not necessarily bound to do so.

The SAB or the RAC have met five times since January, 1991 to consider the "Idaho Slag Issue," along with many other EPA projects. The City of Soda Springs or the Citizens Advisory Board has had a representative at each of the hearings. To date, five speakers have addressed the committee at their monthly board meetings.

The following information and recommendations have been presented:

- EPA did not have adequate justification to suggest that the slag radiation level was hazardous enough to warrant remediation (Removal of slag in present structures).

- RAC seems to accept the risk assessment figures used by the EPA for low levels of radiation. Although no health damage can be documented scientifically at those levels by population studies it is best to be "conservative." They don't think the risk is great enough to justify massive slag removal.

- The EPA data gathered by flying over the area and testing 19

homes was not handled in such a way so as to be scientifically valid.

- New data under more controlled conditions should be gathered.

- The economic impact should be considered in light of the low radiation levels and low potential cancer risk.

- More detailed information should be given to the public explaining risks, uncertainties in estimating risks, options for correction, the cost of corrections, and who will pay for the corrections.

- The SAB has recommended that the EPA do a scientifically valid study.

Although the above recom-

mendations and information has been given, the EPA may not heed any of these recommendations.

The committee plans to meet with representatives of EPA, Monsanto and other outside experts to help develop a scientifically sound procedure to determine slag caused radiation. The CAB committee recommends that the citizens of the area be cooperative in allowing the testing to proceed.

If you have concerns or questions please contact a member of the CAB committee. The CAB meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., at the city hall in Soda Springs.

## Counties way Fund

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## SEICAA Honors Lallatins for Community Service

Each year for the "Stone Soup" Celebration, Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency (SEICAA) takes the opportunity to recognize the many businesses and people who have shown exceptional dedication and generosity in serving their community and especially in assisting the disadvantaged.

This year the SEICAA board of directors selected Lallatin's Food Town and its owners, Ron, Jerry, Lonnie and Dennis Nichols to receive the Community Service Award. This award will be presented at the Stone Soup Business Luncheon to be held in Pocatello Dec. 5, at the Memorial Building, 300 N. Johnson. A \$6 donation is accepted for lunch.

Lallatin's nominator wrote, "Lallatin's Food Town has shown outstanding support for the Soda Springs community in many different areas. Several years ago, they assisted SEICAA by storing perishable commodities in their cold storage at no charge. They supported the agency's market salvage program which helped to feed families who were out of work when Beker Industries shut down. They allowed special funds to be kept on account, so the county clerk or SEICAA staff could refer needy families to the store and their purchases were deducted from the account.

"They have always been generous, supportive and sympathetic to the unforeseen burdens many families have had to face over the years. SEICAA has especially appreciated the full sheet cake Lallatin's has donated to the 'Stone Soup' Celebration fund raiser every year."

In addition to what they do for the economically disadvantaged,

their names are frequently listed as contributors to community and school activities. They have assisted with the purchase of school uniforms, M.S. fund raiser, Golf Club activities and cancer drive. During these times, communities cannot afford to have its businesses and residents unwilling to go the extra mile that Lallatin's has gone to for its citizens."

In the words of President Bush, "The good society does not demand agonizing sacrifice. It requires something within everyone's reach: common decency--common decency and commitment. Know your neighbors. Build bonds of trust at home, at work, where ever you go. Don't just talk about principals: live them."

Lallatin's, the business and its owners exemplify the members of the good society in which President Bush urges all to take part, they said.

## Reminder to Look at RR Crossings

Operation Lifesaver would like to remind drivers to be alert and "Look, Listen, and Live" at all railroad grade crossings.

Operation Lifesaver area coordinator Mike Hysell points out that visibility may be obscured by snow, fog, or smoke, this time of year. Take time at crossings to make sure the train is not coming.

Operation Lifesaver is currently giving grade crossing safety presentations to schools and businesses in the area. For more information call (208) 236-5626 in Pocatello.

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